

NOTE: CHANGES MADE BY THE COURT

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA – LOS ANGELES DIVISION**

USA EQUESTRIAN TRUST, INC., a
corporation;

Plaintiff,

v.

OLD REPUBLIC INSURANCE
COMPANY, a corporation; and DOES
1 through 50, inclusive,

Defendant.

Case No. 2:24-cv-07661 AH (SKx)
Hon. Anne Hwang
Courtroom 7D

**STIPULATED PROTECTIVE
ORDER EXCEPT AS MODIFIED
BY THE COURT**

FSC Date: April 16, 2025
Trial Date: April 26, 2025

1 1. A. PURPOSES AND LIMITATIONS

2 Discovery in this action is likely to involve production of confidential,
3 proprietary, or private information for which special protection from public disclosure
4 and from use for any purpose other than prosecuting this litigation may be warranted.
5 Accordingly, the parties hereby stipulate to and petition the Court to enter the
6 following Stipulated Protective Order. The parties acknowledge that this Order does
7 not confer blanket protections on all disclosures or responses to discovery and that
8 the protection it affords from public disclosure and use extends only to the limited
9 information or items that are entitled to confidential treatment under the applicable
10 legal principles. The parties further acknowledge, as set forth in Section 12.3 (Filing
11 Protected Material), below, that this Stipulated Protective Order does not entitle them
12 to file confidential information under seal; Civil Local Rule 79-5 sets forth the
13 procedures that must be followed and the standards that will be applied when a party
14 seeks permission from the court to file material under seal.

15 B. GOOD CAUSE STATEMENT

16 This action is likely to involve commercial, financial, and/or proprietary
17 information for which special protection from public disclosure and from use for any
18 purpose other than prosecution of this action is warranted. Such confidential and
19 proprietary materials and information consist of, among other things, confidential
20 business or financial information, information regarding confidential business
21 practices, or other confidential or commercial information (including information
22 implicating privacy rights of third parties), information otherwise generally
23 unavailable to the public, or which may be privileged or otherwise protected from
24 disclosure under state or federal statutes, court rules, case decisions, or common law.
25 Accordingly, to expedite the flow of information, to facilitate the prompt resolution
26 of disputes over confidentiality of discovery materials, to adequately protect
27 information the parties are entitled to keep confidential, to ensure that the parties are
28 permitted reasonable necessary uses of such material in preparation for and in the

1 conduct of trial, to address their handling at the end of the litigation, and serve the
2 ends of justice, a protective order for such information is justified in this matter. It
3 is the intent of the parties that information will not be designated as confidential for
4 tactical reasons and that nothing be so designated without a good faith belief that it
5 has been maintained in a confidential, non-public manner, and there is good cause
6 why it should not be part of the public record of this case.

7 **2. DEFINITIONS**

8 2.1 Action: this pending federal lawsuit.

9 2.2 Challenging Party: a Party or Non-Party that challenges the designation
10 of information or items under this Order.

11 2.3 “CONFIDENTIAL” Information or Items: information (regardless of
12 how it is generated, stored, or maintained) or tangible things that qualify for
13 protection under Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 26(c), and as specified above in the
14 Good Cause Statement.

15 2.4 Counsel: Outside Counsel of Record and House Counsel (as well as
16 their support staff).

17 2.5 Designating Party: a Party or Non-Party that designates information or
18 items that it produces in disclosures or in responses to discovery as
19 “CONFIDENTIAL.”

20 2.6 Disclosure or Discovery Material: all items or information, regardless
21 of the medium or manner in which it is generated, stored, or maintained (including,
22 among other things, testimony, transcripts, and tangible things), that are produced or
23 generated in disclosures or responses to discovery in this matter.

24 2.7 Expert: a person with specialized knowledge or experience in a matter
25 pertinent to the litigation who has been retained by a Party or its counsel to serve as
26 an expert witness or as a consultant in this Action.

27 2.8 House Counsel: attorneys who are employees of a party to this Action.
28 House Counsel does not include Outside Counsel of Record or any other outside

1 counsel.

2 2.9 Non-Party: any natural person, partnership, corporation, association, or
3 other legal entity not named as a Party to this action.

4 2.10 Outside Counsel of Record: attorneys who are not employees of a party
5 to this Action but are retained to represent or advise a party to this Action and have
6 appeared in this Action on behalf of that party or are affiliated with a law firm which
7 has appeared on behalf of that party, including support staff.

8 2.11 Party: any party to this Action, including all of its officers, directors,
9 employees, consultants, retained experts, and Outside Counsel of Record (and their
10 support staffs).

11 2.12 Producing Party: a Party or Non-Party that produces Disclosure or
12 Discovery Material in this Action.

13 2.13 Professional Vendors: persons or entities that provide litigation support
14 services (e.g., photocopying, videotaping, translating, preparing exhibits or
15 demonstrations, and organizing, storing, or retrieving data in any form or medium)
16 and their employees and subcontractors.

17 2.14 Protected Material: any Disclosure or Discovery Material that is
18 designated as “CONFIDENTIAL.”

19 2.15 Receiving Party: a Party that receives Disclosure or Discovery Material
20 from a Producing Party.

21 3. SCOPE

22 The protections conferred by this Stipulated Protective Order cover not only
23 Protected Material (as defined above), but also (1) any information copied or extracted
24 from Protected Material; (2) all copies, excerpts, summaries, or compilations of
25 Protected Material; and (3) any testimony, conversations, or presentations by Parties
26 or their Counsel that might reveal Protected Material.

27 Any use of Protected Material at trial shall be governed by the orders of the
28 trial judge. This Order does not govern the use of Protected Material at trial.

1 4. DURATION

2 Even after final disposition of this litigation, the confidentiality obligations
3 imposed by this Order shall remain in effect until a Designating Party agrees
4 otherwise in writing or a court order otherwise directs. Final disposition shall be
5 deemed to be the later of (1) dismissal of all claims and defenses in this Action, with
6 or without prejudice; and (2) final judgment herein after the completion and
7 exhaustion of all appeals, rehearings, remands, trials, or reviews of this Action,
8 including the time limits for filing any motions or applications for extension of time
9 pursuant to applicable law.

10 5. DESIGNATING PROTECTED MATERIAL

11 5.1 Exercise of Restraint and Care in Designating Material for Protection.

12 Each Party or Non-Party that designates information or items for protection under this
13 Order must take care to limit any such designation to specific material that qualifies
14 under the appropriate standards. The Designating Party must designate for protection
15 only those parts of material, documents, items, or oral or written communications that
16 qualify so that other portions of the material, documents, items, or communications
17 for which protection is not warranted are not swept unjustifiably within the ambit of
18 this Order.

19 Mass, indiscriminate, or routinized designations are prohibited. Designations
20 that are shown to be clearly unjustified or that have been made for an improper
21 purpose (e.g., to unnecessarily encumber the case development process or to impose
22 unnecessary expenses and burdens on other parties) may expose the Designating Party
23 to sanctions.

24 If it comes to a Designating Party's attention that information or items that it
25 designated for protection do not qualify for protection, that Designating Party must
26 promptly notify all other Parties that it is withdrawing the inapplicable designation.

27 5.2 Manner and Timing of Designations. Except as otherwise provided in
28 this Order (see, e.g., second paragraph of Section 5.2(a) below), or as otherwise

1 stipulated or ordered, Disclosure or Discovery Material that qualifies for protection
2 under this Order must be clearly so designated before the material is disclosed or
3 produced.

4 Designation in conformity with this Order requires:

5 (a) for information in documentary form (e.g., paper or electronic
6 documents, but excluding transcripts of depositions or other pretrial or trial
7 proceedings), that the Producing Party affix at a minimum, the legend
8 “CONFIDENTIAL” (hereinafter “CONFIDENTIAL legend”), to each page that
9 contains protected material. If only a portion or portions of the material on a page
10 qualifies for protection, the Producing Party also must clearly identify the protected
11 portion(s) (e.g., by making appropriate markings in the margins).

12 A Party or Non-Party that makes original documents available for inspection
13 need not designate them for protection until after the inspecting Party has indicated
14 which documents it would like copied and produced. During the inspection and
15 before the designation, all of the material made available for inspection shall be
16 deemed “CONFIDENTIAL.” After the inspecting Party has identified the documents
17 it wants copied and produced, the Producing Party must determine which documents,
18 or portions thereof, qualify for protection under this Order. Then, before producing
19 the specified documents, the Producing Party must affix the “CONFIDENTIAL
20 legend” to each page that contains Protected Material. If only a portion or portions
21 of the material on a page qualifies for protection, the Producing Party also must clearly
22 identify the protected portion(s) (e.g., by making appropriate markings in the
23 margins).

24 (b) for testimony given in depositions that the Designating Party identify the
25 Disclosure or Discovery Material on the record, before the close of the deposition all
26 protected testimony.

27 (c) for information produced in some form other than documentary and for
28 any other tangible items, that the Producing Party affix in a prominent place on the

1 exterior of the container or containers in which the information is stored the legend
2 “CONFIDENTIAL.” If only a portion or portions of the information warrants
3 protection, the Producing Party, to the extent practicable, shall identify the protected
4 portion(s).

5 5.3 Inadvertent Failures to Designate. If timely corrected, an inadvertent
6 failure to designate qualified information or items does not, standing alone, waive the
7 Designating Party’s right to secure protection under this Order for such material.
8 Upon timely correction of a designation, the Receiving Party must make reasonable
9 efforts to assure that the material is treated in accordance with the provisions of this
10 Order.

11 6. CHALLENGING CONFIDENTIALITY DESIGNATIONS

12 6.1 Timing of Challenges. Any Party or Non-Party may challenge a
13 designation of confidentiality at any time that is consistent with the Court’s
14 Scheduling Order.

15 6.2 Meet and Confer. The Challenging Party shall initiate the dispute
16 resolution process under Civil Local Rule 37-1 et seq.

17 6.3 The burden of persuasion in any such challenge proceeding shall be on
18 the Designating Party. Frivolous challenges, and those made for an improper
19 purpose (e.g., to harass or impose unnecessary expenses and burdens on other parties),
20 may expose the Challenging Party to sanctions. Unless the Designating Party has
21 waived or withdrawn the confidentiality designation, all parties shall continue to
22 afford the material in question the level of protection to which it is entitled under
23 the Producing Party’s designation until the Court rules on the challenge.

24 7. ACCESS TO AND USE OF PROTECTED MATERIAL

25 7.1 Basic Principles. A Receiving Party may use Protected Material that is
26 disclosed or produced by another Party or by a Non-Party in connection with this
27 Action only for prosecuting, defending, or attempting to settle this Action. Such
28 Protected Material may be disclosed only to the categories of persons and under the

1 conditions described in this Order. When the Action has been terminated, a
2 Receiving Party must comply with the provisions of Section 13 below (FINAL
3 DISPOSITION).

4 Protected Material must be stored and maintained by a Receiving Party at a
5 location and in a secure manner that ensures that access is limited to the persons
6 authorized under this Order.

7 7.2 Disclosure of “CONFIDENTIAL” Information or Items. Unless
8 otherwise ordered by the Court or permitted in writing by the Designating Party, a
9 Receiving Party may disclose any information or item designated
10 “CONFIDENTIAL” only to:

11 (a) the Receiving Party’s Outside Counsel of Record in this Action, as well
12 as employees of said Outside Counsel of Record to whom it is reasonably necessary
13 to disclose the information for this Action;

14 (b) the officers, directors, and employees (including House Counsel) of the
15 Receiving Party to whom disclosure is reasonably necessary for this Action;

16 (c) any reinsurer, proposed reinsurer, auditor, accountant, or reinsurance
17 broker or intermediary who has a legitimate business reason to review the Protected
18 Material in connection with an insurer seeking reinsurance for the Claim at issue in
19 this proceeding;

20 (d) any regulatory authority or other governmental authorities (including
21 self-regulatory authorities) having or claiming jurisdiction over any Receiving Party
22 and/or its affiliates and having a legitimate reason to review the Protected Material,
23 and its and their respective employees, agents, advisors, consultants, reinsurers, and
24 proposed reinsurers;

25 (e) Experts (as defined in this Order) of the Receiving Party to whom
26 disclosure is reasonably necessary for this Action and who have signed the
27 “Acknowledgment and Agreement to Be Bound” (Exhibit A);

28 (f) the Court and its personnel;

1 (g) court reporters and their staff;

2 (h) professional jury or trial consultants, mock jurors, and Professional
3 Vendors to whom disclosure is reasonably necessary for this Action and who have
4 signed the “Acknowledgment and Agreement to Be Bound” (Exhibit A);

5 (i) the author or recipient of a document containing the information or a
6 custodian or other person who otherwise possessed or knew the information;

7 (j) during their depositions, witnesses, and attorneys for witnesses, in the
8 Action to whom disclosure is reasonably necessary provided: (1) the deposing party
9 requests that the witness sign the form attached as Exhibit A hereto; and (2) they will
10 not be permitted to keep any confidential information unless they sign the
11 “Acknowledgment and Agreement to Be Bound” (Exhibit A), unless otherwise
12 agreed by the Designating Party or ordered by the Court. Pages of transcribed
13 deposition testimony or exhibits to depositions that reveal Protected Material may be
14 separately bound by the court reporter and may not be disclosed to anyone except as
15 permitted under this Stipulated Protective Order; and

16 (k) any mediator or settlement officer, and their supporting personnel,
17 mutually agreed upon by any of the parties engaged in settlement discussions.

18 8. PROTECTED MATERIAL SUBPOENAED OR ORDERED PRODUCED IN
19 OTHER LITIGATION

20 If a Party is served with a subpoena or a court order issued in other litigation
21 that compels disclosure of any information or items designated in this Action as
22 “CONFIDENTIAL,” that Party must:

23 (a) promptly notify in writing the Designating Party. Such notification shall
24 include a copy of the subpoena or court order;

25 (b) promptly notify in writing the party who caused the subpoena or order to
26 issue in the other litigation that some or all of the material covered by the subpoena
27 or order is subject to this Protective Order. Such notification shall include a copy of
28 this Stipulated Protective Order; and

1 (c) cooperate with respect to all reasonable procedures sought to be pursued
2 by the Designating Party whose Protected Material may be affected.

3 If the Designating Party timely seeks a protective order, the Party served with
4 the subpoena or court order shall not produce any information designated in this action
5 as “CONFIDENTIAL” before a determination by the court from which the subpoena
6 or order issued, unless the Party has obtained the Designating Party’s permission. The
7 Designating Party shall bear the burden and expense of seeking protection in that court
8 of its confidential material, and nothing in these provisions should be construed as
9 authorizing or encouraging a Receiving Party in this Action to disobey a lawful
10 directive from another court.

11 9. A NON-PARTY’S PROTECTED MATERIAL SOUGHT TO BE
12 PRODUCED IN THIS LITIGATION

13 (a) The terms of this Order are applicable to information produced by a Non-
14 Party in this Action and designated as “CONFIDENTIAL.” Such information
15 produced by Non-Parties in connection with this litigation is protected by the
16 remedies and relief provided by this Order. Nothing in these provisions should be
17 construed as prohibiting a Non-Party from seeking additional protections.

18 (b) In the event that a Party is required, by a valid discovery request, to
19 produce a Non-Party’s confidential information in its possession, and the Party is
20 subject to an agreement with the Non-Party not to produce the Non-Party’s
21 confidential information, then the Party shall:

22 (1) promptly notify in writing the Requesting Party and the Non-Party
23 that some or all of the information requested is subject to a confidentiality agreement
24 with a Non-Party;

25 (2) promptly provide the Non-Party with a copy of the Stipulated
26 Protective Order in this Action, the relevant discovery request(s), and a reasonably
27 specific description of the information requested; and

28 (3) make the information requested available for inspection by the

1 Non-Party, if requested.

2 (c) If the Non-Party fails to seek a protective order from this Court within
3 14 days of receiving the notice and accompanying information, the Receiving Party
4 may produce the Non-Party's confidential information responsive to the discovery
5 request. If the Non-Party timely seeks a protective order, the Receiving Party shall
6 not produce any information in its possession or control that is subject to the
7 confidentiality agreement with the Non-Party before a determination by the Court.
8 Absent a court order to the contrary, the Non-Party shall bear the burden and expense
9 of seeking protection in this Court of its Protected Material.

10 10. UNAUTHORIZED DISCLOSURE OF PROTECTED MATERIAL

11 If a Receiving Party learns that, by inadvertence or otherwise, it has disclosed
12 Protected Material to any person or in any circumstance not authorized under this
13 Stipulated Protective Order, the Receiving Party must immediately (a) notify in
14 writing the Designating Party of the unauthorized disclosures, (b) use its best efforts
15 to retrieve all unauthorized copies of the Protected Material, (c) inform the person or
16 persons to whom unauthorized disclosures were made of all the terms of this Order,
17 and (d) request such person or persons to execute the "Acknowledgment and
18 Agreement to Be Bound" that is attached hereto as Exhibit A.

19 11. INADVERTENT PRODUCTION OF PRIVILEGED OR OTHERWISE
20 PROTECTED MATERIAL

21 When a Producing Party gives notice to Receiving Parties that certain
22 inadvertently produced material is subject to a claim of privilege or other protection,
23 the obligations of the Receiving Parties are those set forth in Federal Rule of Civil
24 Procedure 26(b)(5)(B). This provision is not intended to modify whatever procedure
25 may be established in an e-discovery order that provides for production without prior
26 privilege review. Pursuant to Federal Rule of Evidence 502(d) and (e), insofar as the
27 parties reach an agreement on the effect of disclosure of a communication or
28 information covered by the attorney-client privilege or work product protection, the

1 parties may incorporate their agreement in the stipulated protective order submitted
2 to the Court.

3 12. MISCELLANEOUS

4 12.1 Right to Relief. Nothing in this Order abridges the right of any person
5 to seek its modification by the Court in the future.

6 12.2 Right to Assert Other Objections. By stipulating to the entry of this
7 Protective Order, no Party waives any right it otherwise would have to object to
8 disclosing or producing any information or item on any ground not addressed in this
9 Stipulated Protective Order. Similarly, no Party waives any right to object on any
10 ground to use in evidence of any of the material covered by this Protective Order.

11 12.3 Filing Protected Material. A Party that seeks to file under seal any
12 Protected Material must comply with Civil Local Rule 79-5. Protected Material may
13 only be filed under seal pursuant to a court order authorizing the sealing of the specific
14 Protected Material at issue. If a Party's request to file Protected Material under seal
15 is denied by the court, then the Receiving Party may file the information in the public
16 record unless otherwise instructed by the court.

17 13. FINAL DISPOSITION

18 After the final disposition of this Action, as defined in Section 4 (DURATION),
19 ~~the provisions of this Order shall continue to be binding, except with respect to those~~
20 ~~documents and information that became a matter of public record.~~ within 60 days of
21 a written request by the Designating Party, each Receiving Party must return all
22 Protected Material to the Producing Party or destroy such material. As used in this
23 subdivision, "all Protected Material" includes all copies, abstracts, compilations,
24 summaries, and any other format reproducing or capturing any of the Protected
25 Material. Whether the Protected Material is returned or destroyed, the Receiving
26 Party must submit a written certification to the Producing Party (and, if not the same
27 person or entity, to the Designating Party) by the 60 day deadline that (1) identifies
28 (by category, where appropriate) all the Protected Material that was returned or

1 destroyed; and (2) affirms that the Receiving Party has not retained any copies,
2 abstracts, compilations, summaries, or any other format reproducing or capturing any
3 of the Protected Material. Notwithstanding this provision, Counsel are entitled to
4 retain an archival copy of all pleadings, motion papers, trial, deposition, and hearing
5 transcripts, legal memoranda, correspondence, deposition and trial exhibits, expert
6 reports, attorney work product, and consultant and expert work product, even if such
7 materials contain Protected Material. Any such archival copies that contain or
8 constitute Protected Material remain subject to this Protective Order as set forth in
9 Section 4 (DURATION).

10 14. Any violation of this Order may be punished by any and all appropriate
11 measures including, without limitation, contempt proceedings and/or monetary
12 sanctions.

13 IT IS SO STIPULATED, THROUGH COUNSEL OF RECORD.

14 DATED: December 31, 2024

BAUTE CROCHETIERE HARTLEY &
McCOY LLP

17 By: /s/ Michael J. Hartley
18 Michael J. Hartley
19 Attorneys for Defendant
20 Old Republic Insurance Company

21 DATED: December 31, 2024

Barnes & Thornburg LLP

23 By: /s/ Brian T. Nguyen
24 David P. Schack
25 Brian T. Nguyen
26 Attorneys for Plaintiff
27 USA Equestrian Trust, Inc.
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1 FOR GOOD CAUSE SHOWN, IT IS SO ORDERED.

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3 Dated: January 2, 2025

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6 _____
7 Honorable Steve Kim
8 United States Magistrate Judge
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EXHIBIT A

ACKNOWLEDGMENT AND AGREEMENT TO BE BOUND

I, _____ [print or type full name], of
_____ [print or type full address], declare under penalty of perjury
that I have read in its entirety and understand the Stipulated Protective Order that
was issued by the United States District Court for the Central District of California
on [date] in the case of *USA Equestrian Trust, Inc. v. Old Republic Insurance
Company*, Case No. 2:24-cv-07661 AH (SKx). I agree to comply with and to be
bound by all the terms of this Stipulated Protective Order, and I understand and
acknowledge that failure to so comply could expose me to sanctions and punishment
in the nature of contempt. I solemnly promise that I will not disclose in any manner
any information or item that is subject to this Stipulated Protective Order to any
person or entity except in strict compliance with the provisions of this Order.

I further agree to submit to the jurisdiction of the United States District Court
for the Central District of California for the purpose of enforcing the terms of this
Stipulated Protective Order, even if such enforcement proceedings occur after
termination of this action. I hereby appoint _____ [print
or type full name] of _____ [print or type
full address and telephone number] as my California agent for service of process in
connection with this action or any proceedings related to enforcement of this
Stipulated Protective Order.

Date: _____

City and State where sworn and signed: _____

Printed name: _____

Signature: _____